

*Sunday, December 21.*<sup>1</sup>—I went to the Governor this morning. He called me as soon as he had taken coffee after hearing mass at the church, and asked what was said in Chandâ Sâhib's letter that came yesterday, as it had to be answered. I replied that he had written that we should tie *tôranams* in the Tirunallâr, etc., villages near Kârikâl (for which the parwâna has been written) and take possession, as at present two years' revenue might be got out of them. Immediately he told me to reply as follows:—'The parwâna has been received, *tôranams* have been tied, and we have taken possession. But your parwâna is not sufficient. The Tanjore Râjâ's parwâna is also needed and you should get it signed and sealed when you settle the Tanjore affair. You write that the villages contain at present two years' revenue. I do not think so. You also write that you will send me your congratulations when you capture the fort of Tanjore. I pray God to bless you with your desire. I have sent the Europeans' pay in advance, knowing that money is scarce now; but you can pay Muzaffar Khân's sepoy's yourself, as you will have money in 20 days and I will order him to wait till then; but meanwhile give him a little. I am labouring whole-heartedly and without respite in your interests. Till now about 10,000 rupees have been spent in the villages mortgaged by you.' He told me to write thus with compliments.

<sup>1</sup> 10th Mârgali, Sukla.

I then said, 'I took the mint contract<sup>1</sup> and you ordered me to coin rupees  $1\frac{1}{4}$  fanams' weight,<sup>2</sup> heavier and of the Pondichery touch and weight. They are accordingly being coined and I have received ten rupees. It should be written that only these rupees are to pass instead of the old ones of a lower touch and that this should be proclaimed throughout the country. I will send four rupees.' He told me to write accordingly and send them. So I wrote and sent the letter with four rupees by the messenger who came thence. I ordered ten of these rupees to be given to M. Le Maire to see if their touch and weight were equal to those of the rupees coined at the Pondichery mint. M. Le Maire accordingly tested five rupees and said that they were right. They were distinguished by the mark of a sun according to orders. He looked at it and said, 'That is all right; but if they are so big, Pondichery rupees will not pass so well; so the breadth should be lessened without reducing the weight.' I agreed. M. Le Maire said that, as they had the same mark as the Pondichery coins<sup>3</sup> with the addition of a dot, people would refuse them. But the Governor pointed out that the two marks were quite different. I said that, as these were

<sup>1</sup> The succeeding passage shows that this does not refer to the Pondichery mint. I suppose it refers to some mint in the new French concessions, possibly Villiyânallûr.

<sup>2</sup> The fanam-weight at Pondichery was one-ninth of a pagoda-weight or almost 6 grs. Troy (the Crescent pagoda weighing 53 grs. Troy).

<sup>3</sup> The Pondichery mint-mark was a Crescent.

equal to the Pondichery rupees, the mint people might be ordered to go on coining them thus. He repeated this to M. Le Maire and ordered me to tell the shroffs. M. Le Maire asked, 'What if they lower the touch of the coins?' I replied, 'Then they will be refused.'—'True,' the Governor said, and gave the orders.

The Governor then complained that the Company's goods had not been baled. I replied, 'According to the rate at which you have fixed the rupee, 1,20,000 pagodas have been advanced. Up to the last day of Purattâsi, goods worth 41,000 and odd pagodas were brought in. The goods now baled are worth 4,000 and odd pagodas—in all goods worth 40,000 pagodas [*sic*] have been brought in. About 33,000 pagodas have been advanced to the godowns, the washers, the stamping place and the Fort; and the balance is on hand. About 40[000] pagodas are yet due on the cloth investment. That is how the account of the 120[000] is made up. Regarding the lakh of rupees ordered to be paid to Chandâ Sâhib, the copper pledged has realized the amount all but 8,000 and odd pagodas.' The Governor said that he would speak to M. Cornet about it and pay in what was due beyond the produce of the copper. He added that I must get goods brought in at once. I replied that pagodas were coming in on account of the copper sales, and that by the middle of March goods for the 10,000 pagodas would be packed and

despatched by the ships. As for the coarse blue-cloth, cloth to the value of 9,000 pagodas had been brought in on account of the advances, and the balance must be accounted for.<sup>1</sup> This has been added to the copper business for which money is coming in, and which was deferred because copper was scarce. But the whole affair will be settled by January or February [        ].

*Monday, December 22.*<sup>2</sup>—As cloth was being sorted at the Fort this morning, I stayed there till ten o'clock till all was packed. Afterwards M. Cornet gave me accounts written in August last for the cooly I had paid for the rewashing of the cloth, for the chintz taken at Madras on its capture and given to the painters to be finished, and for the cooly I paid the Company's washers for washing white cloth. He showed me also an order on M. Guillard for these sums, so I signed an acknowledgment that I had received them. For 133 pagodas and about 10 fanams, M. Guillard gave me 427½ rupees.<sup>3</sup> I took them, went to the Governor's, and reported that 38 bales had been sorted and baled.

He then said there had been no news for four or five days about the Tanjore affair. I replied that although no letters had come, I had heard the following news from travellers:—Manôji Appâ raised a battery in the middle of the Mâriyamman

<sup>1</sup> Reading *sellu vēnum* for *sengal vēnum*.

<sup>2</sup> *11th Mârgali, Sukla*.

At the rate of 320 rupees per 100 pagodas.